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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HINDLEY



FIFTY-FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1951.

HINDLEY:
FRED BRADLEY & SON LTD.
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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1951.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician:

R. L. HARTLEY, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S., LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P

County Dental Surgeon: - - T. N. ASHALL, L.D.S. (Liverpool).

Sanitary Inspectors:

THOS. FRANCE (Chief).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Associate Member, Institute of Sanitary Engineers;
Meat Inspector's Certificates:—
 Royal Sanitary Institute;
 Liverpool University.

J. T. HAMPSON (Additional).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Meat Inspector's Certificates—Liverpool University.
 Royal Sanitary Institute.
Smoke Inspector's Certificates—Liverpool University.
 Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerical Staff:

Miss E. RIGBY.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 2,612.21 acres.

Population (Preliminary Census, 1951): 19,414.

Estimated, mid-1951 (Registrar General): 19,320.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931) 5,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1951 according to Rate Books: 5,725.

Rateable Value £76,102.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £294.81.

Hindley is essentially an industrial area. A cotton mill, a weaving shed, a paint works, an asbestos works, a steel scaffolding works, and five clothing factories, give employment to both sexes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate	....	148	130	278
Illegitimate	....	4	1	5
		<hr/>		
TOTAL	....	152	131	283
		<hr/>		

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Still Births—Legitimate	....	4	3	7
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—
		<hr/>		
TOTAL	....	4	3	7
		<hr/>		

Death of Infants under 1 year of age:—

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate	....	3	5	8
Illegitimate	....	1	—	1
		<hr/>		
TOTAL	....	4	5	9
		<hr/>		
DEATHS	....	149	144	293

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, mid-1951.....14.6

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....15.2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births..... 24

TABLE I.

	Infant Mortality												
	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Total			Neo-natal	
	No. regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No of deaths regist- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	
Year 1951.....	283	*14.6	293	*15.2	7	24	1	3.45	9	32	3	11	
Year 1950.....	304	15.6	269	13.8	7	23	nil	nil	18	59	10	33	
" 1949.....	305	15.7	263	13.6	17	53	1	3.11	18	59	—	—	
" 1948.....	355	18.3	220	11.3	6	16	1	2.77	11	30	—	—	
" 1947.....	403	21.1	250	13.1	14	33	2	4.79	23	57	—	—	
" 1946.....	362	19.1	244	12.9	9	24	nil	nil	22	60	—	—	
Avg. 5 years— 1946-1950.....	—	18.0	—	13.0	—	30	—	2.24	—	53	—	—	

* Adjusted { live birth rate (comparability factor, 0.98) = 14.3 per 1,000.
death rate (comparability factor, 1.10) = 16.7 per 1,000.

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE II.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total at all periods up to 1 yr.	Under 1 mth.	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Influenzal Broncho- Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	2	—
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Gastro- Enteritis	1	—	—	1	—	—
Accidental Death	2	—	—	1	1	—
Prematurity	1	1	—	—	—	—
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—
Tentorial Tear	1	1	—	—	—	—

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1951, as compared with the previous year:—

TABLE III.

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths. 1951.	No. of Deaths. 1950.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	5	3
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths 1951.	No. of Deaths 1950.
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	7	9
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	8	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	22	15
Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	3	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	38	34
Coronary Disease—Angina	29	20
Hypertension with Heart Disease	14	9
Other Heart Disease	45	77
Other Circulatory Disease	11	16
Influenza	20	2
Pneumonia	8	11
Bronchitis	22	14
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	—
Congenital Malformations	1	5
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	19	28
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	2
All other Accidents	7	5
Suicide	2	—
Homicide and Operations of War.....	1	—
	—	—
	293	269
	—	—

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Laboratories of Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1951 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens:—5 Throat Swabs; 32 Faeces; 4 Samples of Water; 64 Samples of Milk; 27 Ice Cream and 2 Ice Lollies.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year Infectious, Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by the motor ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Hindley Ambulance Station. The service was quite satisfactory.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

General Medical and Surgical:—

Ancoats Infirmary, Manchester; Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Salford Royal Infirmary; Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

Children:—Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Ancoats Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospital.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Manchester and Wigan Infirmaries.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westhoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined four times bacteriologically during the year 1951, and found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of 3 houses in the fields.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type; storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1951) :—

Number of Privy Middens	....	....	....	23
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens				29
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	20
Number of Freshwater Closets	....	....		5987
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...		4
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	...	...		Nil.
Number of Movable Ashbins for Refuse	....			5991
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				5764

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Privy middens and ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and three motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The Scavenging of streets is under the supervision of the Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited	....	....	....	1631
Number of Nuisances discovered	....	....	....	2228
Number of Nuisances abated	....	....	....	1816
Number of Informal Notices served	....	....	....	186
Number of Statutory Notices served	....	....	....	85
Number of Legal Proceedings	....	....	....	1

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Contact is maintained between the Officers of the Health Department and the local Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement.

A time limit of 2 minutes in each half-hour has been fixed for the emission of black smoke from factory and works chimneys.

The Authority is represented on the Manchester and District Smoke Abatement Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One house was found to be infested and was dealt with by spraying with Killgercide Insecticide containing 5% D.D.T. This method has proved highly efficient.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Knackers Yard is kept under constant supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, and trade is carried on there without offence.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Regular visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

4. HOUSING.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are built in rows, and old in type.

The standard of repair has been well maintained, despite the great difficulties of shortage of labour and building materials.

The worst cases of pre-war overcrowding were relieved, but the situation is bad again, owing to servicemen's families having to live with their parents, due to an actual shortage of houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	60
(i) By the Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	56
(ii) By other Authorities	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 623
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose1437
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 —
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3
(3 families re-housed).
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.... 547

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 480

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By owners ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 315

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By Owners 67

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:

- (a) Revised survey necessary to ascertain reasonably accurately.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year —
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 56
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 178

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1951 64 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue Test, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of Pasteurised Milk. 61 samples were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

(b) MEAT.—There are no slaughterhouses open in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1951, cases of Infectious Disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Astley and Whelley Sanatoria of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee, by agreement.

20 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 14 in 1950, and of the 20 cases, 6 were removed to hospital for treatment.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local Hospitals.

As stated earlier in the Report, 5 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed at the Central Clinic. During 1951, 277 pre-school and 59 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxide, and 219 children received reinforcing injections.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1951.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with Lethane Oil and D.D.T. Emulsion.

It is pleasing to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning during the year.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Byelaws for the clean handling of food, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were adopted by the Council during the year.

Advice on the handling of food was circularised to Food Shops and Premises.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1951.

T A B L E I V.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1951.

DISEASE	Total Cases All Ages	Under 1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and Over	Age Unknown	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belonging to district
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	—	4	5	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	249	13	55	96	74	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	50	6	14	21	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	—	8	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	337	21	85	123	93	4	—	4	2	5	—	8	10	—

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1951, 40 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray or Sulphur Dioxide, and it is usual in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector at the Gas Yard, Cross Street, was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to hospital.

CANCER.

42 deaths (20 male and 22 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Hindley residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, and Hindley cases attend at the Dispensary in Millgate, Wigan.

19 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1951, 15 being cases of Pulmonary, and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE V.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F	Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F	Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F	Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65—75	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	7	—	4	3	2	—	1
	15		4		5		1	

TABLE VI.

Causes of and Ages at Death for the Year 1951.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.									
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and Up.	All ages	
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M	F
1—Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	3	...	3	2
2—Tuberculosis, other	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3—Syphilitic Disease
4—Diphtheria
5—Whooping Cough
6—Meningococcal Infections
7—Acute Poliomyelitis
8—Measles
9—Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	...	1
10—Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2 1	1 3	3	4
11—Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	4 1	7	1
12—Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	1	1	...	3
13—Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	1	...	2
14—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	3 5	7 5	10	12
15—Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	1	...	1	...
16—Diabetes	1 2	1	2
17—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	4 3	15 15	19	19
18—Coronary Disease, Angina	11 3	11 4	22	7
19—Hypertension with Heart Disease	1 2	7 4	8	6
20—Other Heart Disease	1 4	2 2	11 25	14	31
21—Other Circulatory Disease	2	...	4 5	4	7
22—Influenza	2	1	...	...	...	...	2 1	6 8	9	11
23—Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	1 2	3 1	4	4
24—Bronchitis	3	8 11	11	11
25—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	2	1
26—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2	1	5	...
27—Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	...
28—Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	...	2 1	2	3
29—Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	3	...
30—Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	...	...	...	1
31—Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
32—Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	1	1 1	8 6	11	8
33—Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	1	...	1	2
34—All other Accidents	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2 2	3	4
35—Suicide	2	...	2	...
36—Homicide and Operations of War	1	...	...	1	...
TOTALS	4 5	1	1	...	1	6 16	43 24	95 97	149	144

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1951.



To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my thirty-sixth Annual Report of the work of the Health Department for the year 1951.

The records show the activities of the Council have been maintained in remedying sanitary defects and improving the amenities of the district.

The year under review has been marked by continued progress in the many phases of the Public Health Service. Particular attention was given to the improvement of sanitary conditions, food supplies, and the administration of health measures generally. Important was the adoption of Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and the sale of food in the open air, which were approved by the Ministry in October. The success of their application depends largely on the co-operation of the Food Traders and the public. Technical advice and assistance will at all times be available from the sanitary staff, who have submitted a code of hygiene for the guidance of traders, particular reference being made in the form of an appeal for the trade to co-operate in keeping dogs out of their shops. No Clean Food Campaign were undertaken, personal contact with the trade will, I feel, ultimately have a beneficial effect in the supply and distribution of good clean food products.

Sanitary and other environmental circumstances of the district have been kept under close observation throughout the year especially those relating to housing and living conditions of the community. The work of the Health Department covers a wide field of activity, and a perusal of the various sections of the report show the diversity and extent of the many matters dealt with.

HOUSING.

In accordance with the Housing Acts a continuous survey of the

housing conditions in the district was maintained, action being taken chiefly under the Public Health Act, as we are unable to work freely under the Housing Acts owing to the acute shortage of dwelling houses. The general standard of housing is fairly good excepting a large area comprising about 80 houses in the centre of the town scheduled for clearance prior to the war. The properties have deteriorated in the interim, as only essential repairs to keep them weatherproof and free from important effects have been carried out. Three from this area had become so dilapidated as to become a danger to Public Health, and official representation was duly made, the tenants being re-housed. In addition, there are approximately 260 individual houses which it is proposed to demolish immediately circumstances permit.

Building materials are less difficult to obtain than in previous years, but the high cost of labour and materials has its effect on the extent of repair work. Property owners generally carry out only the minimum requirements necessary to maintain the property in a reasonable state, as in many cases great hardship is occasioned by their having to meet large repair bills on low controlled rents. It is regretted that the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, for improvement grants is not being taken advantage of by property owners. No doubt this is due mainly to the high standard of housing required and the conditions governing the life of the property.

One such application was received but it was not considered advisable to make a recommendation for a grant.

The houses built post-war by the Council and completed to the 31st December, 1951, number 288:—

100—B.S.Fs.

50—Orlit.

20—3-Bedroom Type C. Traditional.

42—1 Bedroom Bungalows.

76—3-Bedroom Type Traditional.

Completed during the year 1951—56.

LICENSING OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS.

The number of Licences issued for repairs to existing buildings under the Order totalled 12, to the estimated sum of £2,406. It was also necessary to give 118 Priority Certificates for builders to obtain timber.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The service is satisfactory and, with the exception of holiday periods, a weekly collection of dustbin refuse has been maintained throughout the district.

Since the re-organisation in 1946 and the conversion from horse drawn to mechanical vehicles, three new vehicles have been purchased—a Commer in 1946, another Commer in 1948, and a Karrier Bantam in 1951. Two are engaged regularly on refuse collection and the third one and a half days per week with the full complement of orderlies. The latter vehicle for the remaining part of the week is employed in the collection of waste paper from shops, kitchen waste, and emptying the few privy middens that still remain, which are emptied at intervals of six to eight weeks.

Refuse is disposed of at three tips—Orrell Street, Scowcroft Street, and Leigh Road. These are adequate and entail the minimum haulage. The refuse is disposed of as hygienically as possible and controlled on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health.

The amount of refuse to be dealt with continues to increase particularly with the gradual growth of housing accommodation, which has been raised post-war by nearly 300. There are approximately 6,200 bins and 20 pails to be emptied weekly. The number of loads from ashbins alone total approximately 3,350, giving a tonnage collection of nearly 7,600 tons. There are now no ashpits in the district.

There are only 23 privies and 20 pail closets in the district, all of which have drainage difficulties. A new drainage scheme for the Amberswood properties comprising 3 privies and 9 pail closets has now been completed and tenders are being obtained for conversion to the water carriage system.

KITCHEN WASTE.

A weekly collection of kitchen waste continues. 100 receptacles are placed at intervals throughout the district. The contents are conveyed to the Wigan Corporation Cleansing Depot for treatment. The amount collected for the twelve months totalled 98 tons, 12 cwts. There is a regular house-to-house collection made by Pig-keepers outside of the Order, thus the quantity collected by the Local Authority does not reach a high standard.

SALVAGE.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year and every effort was made to induce householders and others to make available waste paper and other materials for salvage. The total amount of waste paper recovered was 120 tons, 12 cwts. an increase over the previous year of 49 tons, 2 cwts. This increase was primarily due to the adoption by the Council of an incentive bonus of 33 and one-third % over 18 tons per quarter, apportioned to the workmen engaged on this work.

Materials salvaged:—

1950.

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	....	....	71	10	0	405	9	0
Rags	....	....	—	7	2	3	15	0
String and Sacking	....		—	14	0	2	16	0
			72	11	2	£412	0	0

1951.

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	....	....	120	12	1	1797	7	9
Rags	....	....	—	8	2	8	10	0
String and Sacking	....		1	5	1	9	4	6
			122	6	0	£1815	2	3

MILK SUPPLY.

The consumption of heat treated milk is rising from year to year. The general public are now demanding bottled milk, with the result that small producers are gradually declining in numbers. Retail producers on the register at the end of the year were:—12 Producers, 3 Dairymen and 144 Retailers of Bottled Milk (7 Tuberculin Tested, 1 Accredited, 30 Pasteurised and 106 Sterilised).

18 samples of milk were submitted for Tuberculosis. All were found to be negative

46 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. 43 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.

5 School milk samples submitted were all satisfactory.

There is no heat treatment plant in your district

WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the district have the town's supply laid on excepting:

Barlow's Farm	—	Agricultural only
Good Cheap Farm	—	Agricultural only
Six Acre Farm	—	Agricultural only

ASHBINS.

In May, 1951, the Council exercised their powers under section 75/3 of the Public Health Act, to supply dustbins for domestic refuse, such expenditure being charged against the General Rate Fund. From that time 358 dustbins were replaced, 40 supplied to new Council Houses and 2 to privately owned properties.

CAMPING SITES.

We have no licenced camping sites in the district although there have been from time to time all too frequent visits by rough type caravan dwellers. There has, however, been a considerable decrease over previous years mainly as a result of the assistance of three land

owners who have been induced to fence their sites, following the example of the Council who put a ring fence on two parcels of land owned by them.

During the year an application was received to allow land to be used as a site for movable dwellings. This was refused.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one such business established in your area, a Knackers Yard. It continues to be well conducted. All offensive matter is frequently removed or destroyed.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided for the liquid. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle and is renewed free in exchange for the empty bottle. During the year 1084, bottles were supplied to residents, 304 at the Health Office, 396 at your Distribution Station at Platt Bridge, and 384 at your Hindley Green Station—153 sales and 931 re-issues.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Each house is visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given regarding isolation of the patient and care to be exercised by contacts.

Public Library Books from infected premises are taken over by the Public Health Department and disinfected before being returned to the Library for re-distribution. Books in an unserviceable condition are, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed. 11 library books were disinfected during the year.

All houses are disinfected after various forms of Infectious Disease including Tuberculosis, with a solution of Formalin, although Formic Vapour lamps in a gaseous form and sulphur candles are used in certain cases.

The Elementary and Grammar Schools are sprayed internally with

a disinfectant solution during each holiday vacation—Easter, Whitsun, Summer, October and Christmas.

Schools disinfected—28.

During the year, 33 houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease. 196 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfecter.

Number of articles destroyed, chiefly flock beds and mattresses-18.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

This Act prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and requires all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. Seven persons are licensed by the Council to slaughter under the Act.

MEAT INSPECTION.

All butchers meat is controlled by the Ministry of Food. The meat supply for your district comes mainly from the Wigan Slaughter Houses, the distribution centre for this area, local slaughter houses having been out of commission since January, 1940.

Domestic Pig-Keepers are allowed to slaughter within certain limits, personally reared and fed animals, by permission of the Ministry of Food.

Pigs (killed for home consumption) inspected—7.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following table denotes the various foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption, all of which were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:—

Nature Food.	Weight Condemned.
Canned Ham.....	1,315½ lbs.
Canned Meat	69¾ lbs.
Meat Paste	15 3/16 lbs.

Sausages	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Meat Pies	48
Meat and Potato Pies.....	24
Canned Vegetables.....	53 $\frac{9}{16}$ lbs.
Canned Fruit.....	150 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cheese	27 lbs.
Tinned Milk.....	51 tins
Tinned Soup.....	31 $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs.
Jams and Marmalade.....	58 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Fish	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bacon	52 lbs.
Pickles and Sauces	65 bottles.
Vinegar	6 bottles.
Tinned Puddings	3 lbs.
Bottled Rhubarb	43 lbs.
Biscuits	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cake	18 lbs.
Candied Peel	9 lbs.
Cream Barley	8 ozs.
Drinking Chocolate	7 lbs.
Tripe	6 lbs.
Cowheels	2
Figs	22 lbs.
Brawn	4 lbs.
Salt	12 packets.
Savoury Ducks	24.
Sweets	7 lbs.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Nuisances brought forward from 1950.....	463
Nuisances reported to Committee during 1951....	2357
Nuisances abated during 1951	1945
Number of letters sent	334
Number of Preliminary Notices	186
Number of Statutory Notices	85
Number of School Notices	18
Number of Parents' Notices	13
Number of Houses Disinfected	33
Number of Articles Disinfected	196
Factories	70
Knackers Yard	24
Bakehouses	27
Picture Halls	16
Number of Visits re Infectious Disease	48

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Defective Water Supply and Cistern and W.C. Pedestals	260
Defective and Choked Drains	256
Defective Roofs	187
Defective Gutters, Gullies & Downspouts	168
Irregular and Insanitary Yard Surfaces	13
Defective Brickwork to Yard and other Walls....	94
Chimney Stacks, Smoky Chimneys	28
Absence of Refuse Receptacles	471

Dampness	69
Defective Doors, Door Frames, Windows and Window Frames	152
Insufficient Light and Ventilation	1
Insanitary Slop Sinks and Waste Pipes	52
Defective Grates and Washboilers	93
Defective Plasterwork	112
Defective Floors	83
Verminous Houses	1
Insanitary Condition of Premises	5
Living Vans so placed	85
Insanitary Condition of Factories and Work- shops	5
Other Nuisances	93

FACTORIES ACT.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector:—

Premises.	Number of Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.
Factories, Mechanical Power (52)	46	1
Factories, Non-Mechanical Power (6)	15	—
Building Sites (3)	9	—
	—	—
	70	1
	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	4	4
Other Nuisances	1	1
	—	—
TOTAL	5	5
	—	—

BAKERIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakeries and bakehouses in the district is 16. Periodical inspections are made. In a few instances it has been necessary to draw occupiers' attention to minor defects, and to the fact that limewashing was necessary. In each case these matters were given prompt attention.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following samples were submitted for analysis, many of which were obtained in conjunction with the County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. C. Almond:—

Milk (formal samples)	50
Beef Sausage	1
Butter	3
Cheese	3
Bread	3
Fruited Malt Bread	1
Fruit Tarts	1
Custard Tarts	2
Iced Sandwich Cakes	1
Crumpets	1
Oatmeal	1

White Pepper	1
Mustard	1
Treacle	2
Pineapple (bottled in syrup).....	1
Shredded Beef Suet	1
Table Jelly	4

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 formal Milk	Deficient of 10 per cent. fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor Notified.
1 formal Milk	Deficient of 3.3 per cent. fat.	Vendor Notified.
1 Table Jelly	Total sugars (calculated in accordance with the Food Standards (Table Jellies Order) 60.1 per cent.	No Action.

ICE CREAM.

There are two large manufacturers in the district. Their premises, plant and equipment are consistent with modern standards and a high degree of cleanliness is maintained. The number of retailers of iced products continues to increase, and we have now 55 on the register. These are chiefly grocers' shops and mixed businesses. Each is provided with a modern refrigerator and licensed only to sell a pre-packed product.

All ice products sold in the district are subject to frequent bacteriological examination.

The grades achieved from the 27 samples submitted were as follows:—

20 samples	Grade 1.
4 samples	Grade 2.
3 samples	Grade 3.
Nil	Grade 4.

ICE LOLLIES.

2 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported to be satisfactory.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In September, 1947, the Council adopted a time limit consistent with the National Smoke Abatement Council's recommendation of a maximum emission of 2 minutes per half hour.

No formal action was necessary during the year. The factories in the district are in the main driven by electric power. Only on rare occasions is it necessary to contact industrial firms, who endeavour to co-operate in every way to minimise the nuisance from smoke.

RODENT CONTROL.

All complaints of infestation by rats and mice were effectively dealt with, and the operative made frequent inspections throughout the district. Farms, refuse tips, sewage disposal works, municipal undertakings and private premises were kept under observation and infestations attacked with excellent results.

The sewers were treated twice during the year. The number of manholes found to be infested was 49, and the usual treatment was applied in these cases.

The Council give a free service for the treatment of infestations found at dwelling houses, a charge being made for the treating of business premises on a basis of actual cost of labour and materials, plus 20 per cent. administration.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, and other Officials and Members of the Staff, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOS. FRANCE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,
Town Hall,

Hindley,

22nd January, 1952.

Particulars of Rainfall recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works
during the year ending 31st December, 1951.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above Sea Level.

Area of Hindley—2612.182 Statute Acres.

						Total
		No. of days on which rain fell.		Maximum fall in 24 hours in inches.		Monthly Rainfall in inches.
Month						
				Inches.	Date.	
January	19	0.46	10th	3.60
February	18	0.36	20th	2.29
March	23	0.72	21st	5.30
April	15	0.55	3rd	2.25
May	13	0.71	4th	2.68
June	12	0.47	25th	1.50
July	16	0.56	11th	3.42
					& 22nd	
August	22	0.76	11th	5.06
September	16	0.73	24th	3.05
October	9	0.24	20th	0.95
November	28	0.75	20th	8.27
December	27	0.84	8th	7.23
Totals for the						
year 1951	218			45.60

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1951:—
12,020,023 tons.

Previous Annual Rainfall in Inches											
1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
37.82	33.51	34.78	37.96	43.55	37.19	46.15	30.67	37.12	37.80	43.63	

T. G. GRIME, A.M. INST. MUN. E.

Engineer and Surveyor.

